

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

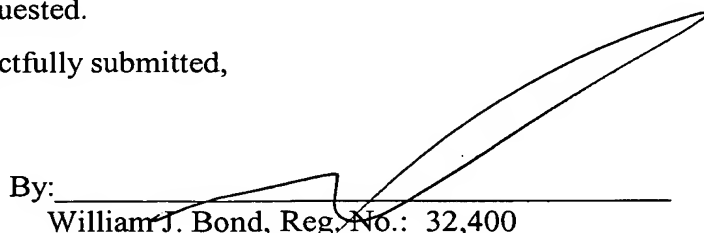
The Kalleberg reference teaches forming a hook strip using a monofilament. Nealis is a gripper type fastener. It is submitted that the references are not combinable as proposed and even if combined would not result in the claimed hook fastener. The Kalleberg process relies on the monofilament fibers to form their mushroom type hooks by direct contact with a headed wire. This is not a process or product that is possible with an integral backed fastener as taught by Nealis. Monofilaments cannot be formed with an integral backing. Monofilaments are formed by high-speed fiber forming process that length orients the fibers creating large amounts of molecular orientation. This would not be possible or even conceivable with an integral backing. The combination as proposed is not technically feasible.

The dimensions claimed are technically important and provide novel features not taught in the prior art as represented by the applied references. This invention hook is a new class of hook fasteners usable in limited use situations. The hooks are small and the backing is thin and flexible. These are disadvantages in both Nealis and Kalleberg where durable extended use applications are intended for their fasteners. Small hooks however are extremely well suited for limited use applications such as on disposable diapers. These small hooks are able to engage low loft inexpensive loop materials that the large hooks of Kalleberg would not engage. Further in limited use applications a thin flexible backing is extremely important. The hook strips are better able to curve to the wearer and as such are more comfortable to use close to the skin. This feature is not taught or suggested in the art applied and in fact would be contrary to the teachings in these patents for the reasons stated above.

In view of the forgoing further and favorable action in the form of a notice of allowance is in order and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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